An aerial photograph of a large dam and reservoir situated in a deep, rugged canyon. The reservoir is a light blue color, and the surrounding cliffs are steep and rocky, with some green vegetation visible on the slopes. The text is overlaid on the image.

# **Snake River-Hells Canyon UAA or What?**

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Idaho Power Company





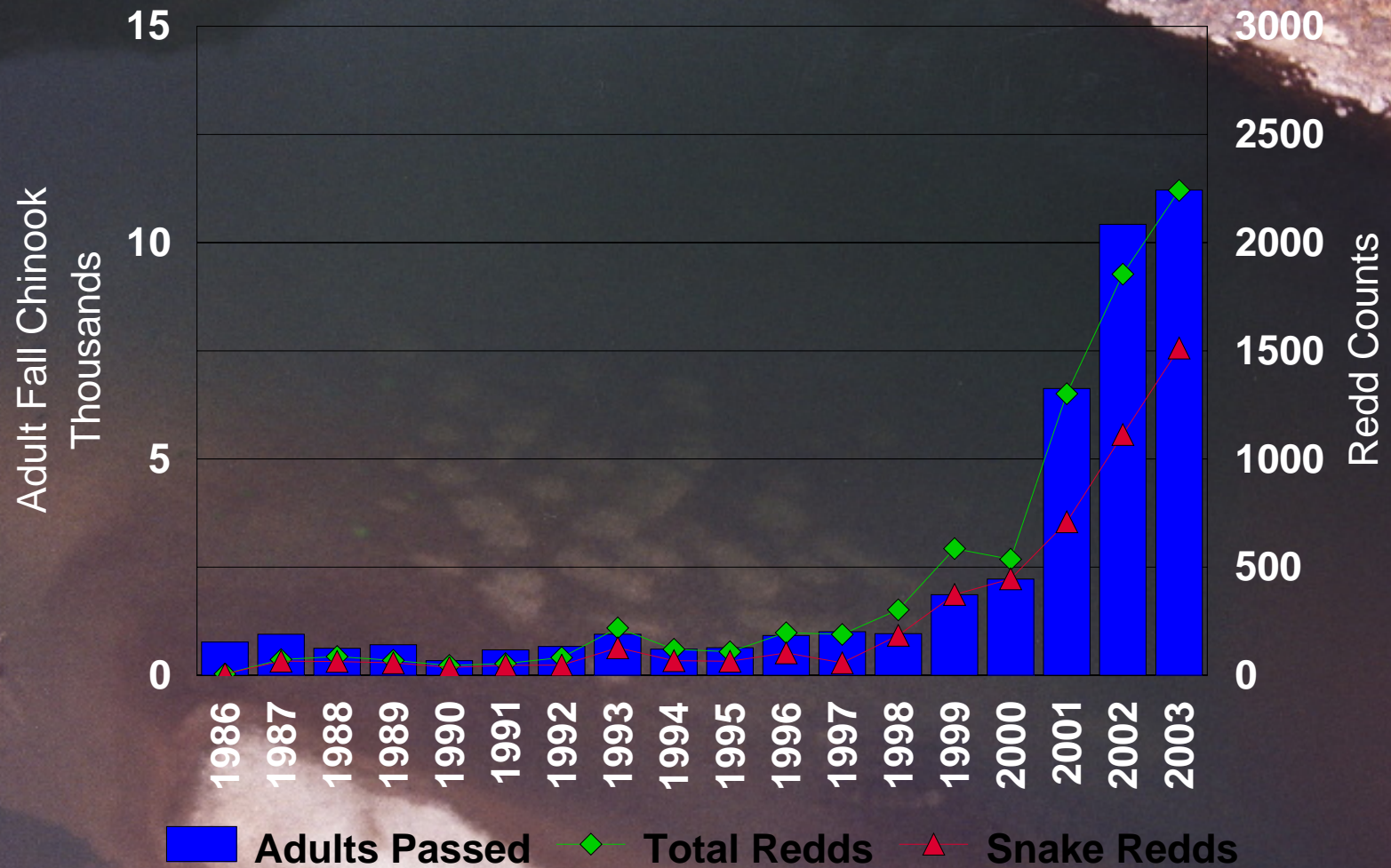


# Regulatory Status

- Designated Beneficial Use: Salmonid Spawning
- Fall chinook spawning period: October 23-April 15
- Existing temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions do not always meet current State standards



# Fall Chinook Status





# UAA

States may remove a designated use which is not an existing use or establish subcategories of a use if the State can demonstrate that attaining the designated use is not feasible because...




# Is the temperature standard correct?

- Olson and Foster (1955): No better survival at 13°C than 16.1°C.
- Ongoing IPC and Battelle Northwest studies show no difference between 13°C and 15°C.
- Hanford Reach of the Columbia River has similar thermal regime to Hells Canyon and supports the strongest spawning population of fall chinook in the Northwest.
- IDEQ has failed to identify any evidence that the fall chinook population below Hells Canyon Dam is impaired by the temporal thermal shift.



# Is the oxygen standard correct?

- IPC data shows that assuming a 3.0 mg/L difference between water column and intergravel levels does not reflect conditions below Hells Canyon Dam.
- Published literature indicates substantial differences in oxygen requirements for different life stages

An aerial photograph of a large dam and reservoir situated in a deep, rugged canyon. The reservoir is a light blue color, and the surrounding cliffs are steep and rocky, with some sparse vegetation. A road or path runs along the edge of the reservoir. The text is overlaid on the image.

# **Snake River-Hells Canyon UAA or What?**

## **Site Specific Standards**